

Public Works Department



The Public Works Department provides a number of services to the citizens of Berlin. They include: the maintenance of over 60 miles of streets and many more miles of sidewalks that need to be swept, patched and overlaid with pavement. We also provide snow removal, street striping, street marking, and the fabrication and installation of street and traffic signs. We construct retaining walls, install guard rails and guard fence. We maintain sewer and storm water collection systems. We provide equipment maintenance for all of the Public Works, Fire, Recreation, Health, Police and Engineering Departments as well as the Berlin Municipal Airport. We maintain gas and fuel distribution system for all City Departments. We also provide and maintain 151 sand and salt barrels for winter use. We periodically seal concrete sidewalks, retaining walls and bridge abutments. Members of the Department also provided utility information and project inspection for water and sewer capital improvement projects.

The past winter was a very challenging with over 100 inches of snow compiled with low temperatures we have not seen in decades. The average high from December through March was 24.8F with an average low of 1.08. Temperatures above freezing were rare last winter!

Transportation

Street Markings - Center lines, edge lines, railroad crossings and crosswalks were painted as they are every year, excluding three exempt railroad crossings. The cost of this work is approximately \$11,000. The work includes approximately 220,000 linear feet of striping and 5 railroad crossings. PWD crew paints over 130 crosswalks throughout the City, all the Stop Bars, and Yellow No Parking Zones and the Handicap Parking areas.

Projects in progress/completed in the 2014-2015 Season

- Replaced retaining walls and railings on Sweden Street and Prospect Streets. Project constructed with PWD crews.
- Hutchins Street Re-Construction was completed August 2014, which re-constructed this street and up-graded the drainage system between Wood & Bridge Streets.
- The Phase 2 Route 110 Project is still in progress and plans are to reach substantial completion fall of FY16 and final completion Spring F16.
- The Engineering Phases for Hutchins Street from Napert and Turcotte Streets are complete with plans to construct FY15-FY16.

Solid Waste

The East Milan Road Landfill closure was substantially completed in October of 1996. Closure of the landfill launched the 39 year post-closure monitoring program. Groundwater quality and methane gas production is being monitored in accordance with the program.

The Cates Hill Landfill Closure project was completed in August of 2006. The project was awarded to the low bidder, Paragon Construction, Inc. of Orford, NH. Paragon's bid for the work was \$572,020. Work was started in the spring of 2003. Groundwater quality and methane gas production is being monitored in accordance with the program. The costs for Engineering Services, Certified Lab Testing

Services, Gas Monitoring, Administrative Services and Grounds Maintenance is almost \$18,000.

The Public Works Department does curbside pickup of household garbage. Recycling became Mandatory September 2012 and solid waste tonnages went from 4200 tons per year to approximately 3300 tons per year at a cost saving of \$60,000. We continue to increase efforts to reduce the household garbage tonnage to the landfill. The Public Works Department collects paper, glass, plastics, tin, aluminum and cardboard for recycling and we worked with local media to inform and educate the public for the need to improve our recycling efforts.

We have eliminated curbside bulky waste pick-up to have residents use the AVRDD transfer station with a permit. We have also been working with the school system to inform students on the solid waste collection process and the benefits of recycling.

Sanitary Sewer & Storm Collection Systems;

Completed Phase 1 Contract 3. The scope of this project was replacement of sanitary sewer line and manholes on Hutchins Street between Wood and Bridge Streets to reduce inflow and infiltration. The project also went into the homes to remove inflow sources such as sump pumps and floor drains which were connected to the Storm water Collection System.



Recreation and Parks Maintenance

The maintenance crew for Recreation and Parks is now being directed by the Public Works Director. We have overcome the major issues with bug infestation and fertilization on our major fields (Memorial, High School and Community College). We still have been closely working with Northeast Agriculture to guide us to keep up the good field conditions. In working with Northeast, we also have gained the valuable knowledge that will help us avoid the reoccurrence of these issues in the future and the fields are currently in great shape. The demand has also increased with the addition of high school aged (Gladiators) football and high school women's soccer and youth football (Lumberjacks) being added.

Following is a summary of the tasks and services provided by the crew listed by the different seasons.

Winter :(Dec., Jan., & Feb.)

- Continue with downtown Christmas decorations, repairs, replacements, etc.
- All snow, ice, and rain events are attended to as they occur. This involves plowing, shoveling, sanding and salting parking lots, walkways, stairs and entrances. The places we maintain are; 1) Police station-Recreation Center; and two First Ave. parking lots. 2) City Hall 3) Court House. 4) Heritage Park 2 lots. 5) Bickford Place. 6) Memorial and Community Fields storage. 7) 5 skating rinks.
- We maintain 5 skating rinks as long as weather permits. These rinks are located at Green St., River St., Ramsey Park, Horne Field, and Hutchins Park.
- Everyday custodial duties are performed at the Recreation Center, and building is maintained for all winter programs. Equipment maintenance, usually performed during springtime, is started in the garage when the weather is not favorable for skating rink maintenance activities.

Spring :(March, April, & May)

- All equipment is inspected and repaired, painted, or replaced. As snow melts, the crew gets outside and starts to “spring clean” (litter pick up, leaves, sweep, and sod repairs) all areas that we take care of. High School baseball and softball games, Boys and Girls Tennis are first on the schedule. They play and practice on the 2 Little League Fields at Community and at Memorial and at the Glen Ave. and Horne Field tennis courts. JV and Varsity play about 20 home ball games not counting playoffs
- Grass mowing starts and the cemetery crew from Northern Human Services starts in May. We equip them, service the equipment, and they do a great job. The Community Gardens are tilled and staked out.

Summer :(June, July, & Aug.)

- High School athletic seasons wind down with playoffs at their fields and Jr. High games at Community and Horne Fields finish up their schedules. Grass mowing and trimming are everyday tasks. All places we maintain are: Track field, Memorial and Memorial Annex, Green St., Veterans Park, all downtown (Vadoukus, PSNH, Gill, Library, St. Anne, Dead River, all Pleasant St., Green St., and Cole St. islands, Tondreau,) parks, Cleveland Bridge road and Botanical gardens, Central Playground, Community Fields, Hutchins park, the ball field at Horne field and playground, Rotary Park, Brown School playground, Ramsey Park playground.
- Full schedule of girls’ softball (Bobcats) games at Horne Field, Cal Ripken at Community, and their respective tournaments.
- Summer Soccer league games at Community
- Summer playgrounds program and free lunches. Ongoing field maintenance at all fields that include, aerating, seeding, topdressing, fertilizing and weed-killing.
- Cemetery work
- Trash removal, tree pruning, fence repairs, and playground safety, etc., are attended to weekly.

Fall :(Sept., Oct., and Nov.) - Very busy fall schedule of High School field hockey and soccer games and practices that start in August. Every day practices at Community Field and Community College field for JV and Varsity teams, with 10 home games for each team at the Track field.

- 7th and 8th grade soccer and field hockey games and practices at Horne field and Memorial Annex field
- 5th and 6th grade soccer and field hockey games and practices at Memorial and Community fields. New addition this fall was the addition of high school level football which had daily practices at Memorial Annex Field and for home games at Memorial Field. The Berlin Gladiators had a successful season making it into the play-off finals for the third year in a row. This play-off game was held at the High School Track Field.
- Rec. Dept. Soccer program at Green St. Field
- Repair worn areas of all fields and continue field maintenance program
- Put away all bleachers, nets, benches, picnic tables, summer equipment, etc. for winter. Crew does the downtown Christmas decorating and assists Main St. Program with their decorations. We prepare areas for the five skating rinks.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Michael P. Perreault

Public Works Director

